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DOWNEY

BY RONALD FARQUHAR

PEIPING, JULY 16--(REUTERS)--AMERICAN WILLIAM DOWNEY VISITED HIS JAILED BROTHER JOHN HERE TODAY AND SAID LATER THE PRISONER WAS "QUITE WELL AND RESTED."

IT WAS THE SECOND VISIT WILLIAM DOWNEY HAD MADE TO HIS 28-YEAR-OLD BROTHER--GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE FOR SPYING IN 1954--SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE MONDAY ON A SIX-DAY VISIT.

WILLIAM DOWNEY, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONN., RECALLED HE WAS LAST HERE IN JANUARY, 1958, WHEN HE ACCOMPANIED HIS MOTHER AND THE MOTHERS OF TWO OTHER AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN COMMUNIST CHINA AS SPIES. THEY ARE RICHARD G. FECTEAU, 31, OF LYNN, MASS., SERVING A 20-YEAR SENTENCE HERE, AND HUGH F. REDMOND JR., 38, OF YONKERS, N.Y., IMPRISONED ON A LIFE TERM IN SHANGHAI.

WILLIAM DOWNEY TOLD A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT HE HAD GIVEN THE CHINESE RED CROSS A REQUEST TO "SEE SOMEONE IN THE GOVERNMENT" ABOUT RELEASING THE THREE MEN.

"AS YET I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER," HE SAID, "AND I DON'T KNOW WEATHER I SHALL SEE ANYONE."

ASKED IF HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY HIS BROTHER MIGHT BE RELEASED SOON, DOWNEY SAID: "I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ON THAT OR ANYTHING THAT WOULD INDICATE A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION."

WHEN THE THREE MOTHER--MRS. MARY DOWNEY, MRS. RUTH REDMOND AND MRS. PHILIP FECTEAU--WERE HERE LAST YEAR THEY APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE RELEASE OF THEIR SONS. PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI REJECTED THEIR PLEAS, SAYING THE THREE MEN HAD "VIOLATED CHINESE LAW AND MUST BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY."

WILLIAM DOWNEY SAID HE PLANNED TO SEE HIS BROTHER AGAIN SATURDAY BEFORE LEAVING BY AIR THE NEXT DAY FOR HONG KONG ON HIS WAY HOME. HIS FIRST VISIT TO PEIPING PRISON WAS TUESDAY.

BOTH TODAY AND THEN, HE SAID, THE TWO BROTHERS SPENT A "PLEASANT" TWO HOURS CHATTING IN THE PRISON VISITING ROOM IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHINESE

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GUARD. THE VISITOR SAID CHINESE OFFICIALS LET HIM SPEND MORE THAN THE NORMAL VISITING TIME WITH HIS BROTHER.

WILLIAM DOWNEY REPORTED HE HAD NOT NOTICED MUCH CHANGE IN HIS BROTHER SINCE HIS LAST VISIT IN 1958.

"IN GENERAL, HE SEEMS ABOUT THE SAME AS HE DID THEN," DOWNEY CONTINUED. "HE WAS PRETTY CHEERFUL AND A LITTLE LESS SURPRISED TO SEE ME THAN ON MY PREVIOUS VISIT."

THE VISITOR SAID JOHN DOWNEY "KNEW A LITTLE IN ADVANCE THAT I WAS COMING."

HE ADDED: "WE TALKED MAINLY ABOUT PERSONAL MATTERS--THE FAMILY, HIS FRIENDS, SPORTS AT HOME, MY DOINGS IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO."

JOHN DOWNEY AND FECTEAU, BOTH CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, WERE PASSENGERS ON A PLANE FORCED DOWN IN COMMUNIST TERRITORY IN 1952. FORDMOND, A SHANGHAI BUSINESSMAN, WAS ARRESTED IN 1951 AND SENTENCED IN 1954.

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